

IRRIGATION.

The Senate Committee on the Possibilities of the Underflow in Western Kansas.

The report of the senate committee on irrigation is now ready to be made to the senate. One of the most interesting chapters in the report is that relating to western Kansas and the "underflow." Upon the subject the report says:

Your committee's direct observation of western Kansas was confined almost wholly to the valley of the Arkansas, in passing westward from the mouth of the Arkansas to the mouth of the Colorado. The evidence taken in the state and presented in the third volume of testimony covers, however, the entire state, and shows that the water table is at least twenty feet below the surface of the land. This includes about 14,000,000 acres, 12,000,000 of which are doubtless arable and fertile, capable of producing large crops of corn, small grains, vegetables and grasses wherever water is obtainable, and the smaller riparian area is not so fertile by reason of the hot winds that prevail so injuriously over the great plains. The temperature of this region is continental in character, showing an average of fifty-three degrees, but ranging from fifteen degrees to 110 degrees. Great as is the diversity, the minimum as well as the maximum ranges are not widely extended in time. This is the region marked on our school-day maps as forming a large portion of the great American desert. It is almost treeless, and the few grasses have for centuries past been trampled into a water shedding that by the constant movement of buffalo herds and other wild animals.

Within the boundaries of the state of Kansas the Arkansas is the only mountain-fed water course. It is a river of the plains, having its sources within them, and furnishing somewhat scanty supplies for 300 or 500 miles in length, until it reaches the Arkansas or Kansas or Arkansas rivers. The altitude of these plains rises from 2,500 feet on the east to about 3,500 on the west at the base of the Rocky mountains. Its grades are remarkable even. The upper Arkansas valley, for example, will have an almost uniform fall eastward of seven feet to the mile. The lower valley of its divides north and south the gradient will be about sixteen feet. These important physical features practically cover the reclamation problem of the section.

An immense flow of water passes from the Rocky mountains to certain points in the year down the Colorado. The Arkansas river, that river after debouching from the foot hills below Pueblo, Colorado, winds its way through the Arkansas valley, and underlies the entire valley. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the water of the Arkansas sinks into this substratum. It is locally designated as "underflow" or "sheet water." It is testified to as being at least thirty miles in length, and it makes place its percolation as extending over a territory north and south of the river of at least 100 miles in breadth. Mr. J. W. Gregory, of the Arkansas valley, testified that this sheet or underflow has a perceptible current. The same declaration was made in Texas in regard to the underflow of the Staked Plains. Mr. Gregory urged strongly that the general government should make a thorough examination of the whole matter, or, as he expressed it, "make a survey."

Should systematic and start it. That it should make the survey, and also establish as many fountains or supply sources as are necessary to make a complete demonstration of the practicability of the plan. We have these wells. We have within the present limits of the state a large enterprise of the class desired by Mr. Gregory is already under way and promises great success. The sheet or underflow has been found in southwestern Kansas at least 1,000 miles in length. It is a practical complication of the sheet or underflow that it can not help but be a success.

Such a policy Mr. Gregory declared and in this he was supported by nearly all the witnesses examined by the committee. Kansas would encourage the people, enable them to combine and give a certainty to enterprises requiring private capital. At Dodge City, westward from Garden City, a large enterprise of the class desired by Mr. Gregory is already under way and promises great success. The sheet or underflow has been found in southwestern Kansas at least 1,000 miles in length. It is a practical complication of the sheet or underflow that it can not help but be a success.

ARTESIAN WELLS IN KANSAS.

The evidence taken shows clearly that there is no part of the Kansas plains region in which the water table is so high as to be obtained at a moderate depth below the surface. Artesian wells are found in counties south of the Arkansas river, also north and west of the Arkansas river. At different points of the valleys of the Arkansas and of the Smoky Hill. In the extreme northwestern section of the state the Republican river runs through the Kansas, although much smaller in area than the Arkansas is, also, it is evident, underlain with a great body of water. Besides the possibilities involved in this supply there are considerable opportunities for local storage of storm and surface waters. Some of the best water in the area, but the larger number will be obtained by locally utilizing the ravines and "draws" that exist all over the region. The annual rainfall in the state is 18 inches; last year the total was 18. Even this would be sufficient to produce fair crops if it could be distributed at the right time, but as it is not, the water in the region from north to south the rainfall falls the farmer during the weeks and days in which it is most needed. This is almost invariably the case. The water may have had more than an ordinary share of moisture. It is this fact which renders it necessary from the experience of the people and the observation of your committee for congress to continue the policy already begun in the preliminary investigation ordered into the existence, and the character of the underflow, and the subterranean waters of the great plains.

In the valley of the Arkansas, since 1883, the industries of southwestern Kansas have made a vigorous effort to make their industry permanent by means of surface irrigation. About 15,000 acres have been so cultivated. Last year less than 20,000 acres were sown. The soil will produce abundantly. Of the grains, grasses, roots and fruits of the temperate zone, corn returns forty bushels; wheat the same; alfalfa can be cut per acre when irrigated, giving from eight to ten tons per acre. The land is so fertile that the crops are so abundant that the people are not able to dispose of the surplus. The crops are so abundant that the people are not able to dispose of the surplus. The crops are so abundant that the people are not able to dispose of the surplus.

By far the larger part of our current land entries are now made well within the line of partial and complete aridity. It is due, then, that the people are not able to dispose of the surplus. The crops are so abundant that the people are not able to dispose of the surplus. The crops are so abundant that the people are not able to dispose of the surplus.

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The passage, then, of the measures proposed by your committee will be with policy, just in action and statesmanlike in results. In many of your committee insist that the legislation that may be enacted should be such as to make the arid west shall be deprived of two-thirds of the benefits it might be derived from a proper irrigation survey.

Congress certainly never intended to facilitate the appropriation for topographical surveys in the humid areas, nor facilitate the indirect growth of "research for science" by allowing the use of irrigation surveys appropriations in the making of topographical maps for the use of the geological survey. Both of these things have resulted from the past management of the irrigation survey, and whatever other action may be taken, your committee believes that the facts which it has presented will be a final bar to such singular interpretations of law and executive duties.

MRS. GRANT IRRITATED.

Dr. Douglas Paid in Full for His Services for the General.

NEW YORK, May 8.—Dr. Douglas never did General Grant a particle of good. All he did was to look wise. This, from the lips of My severest critic, but one of the many expressions of the lady's displeasure to which she gave utterance last evening when seen at her residence.

Dr. Douglas, it is said, has been again asserted that he has been badly treated by the Grant heirs, lies at the Presbyterian hospital, suffering from a broken heart. The lady's friends, however, that he is penniless; that his wife has been forced by reason of poverty to start a boarding house in Bethlehem, Pa., that the doctor is penniless, and that he has been incapacitated from work, and that the family of the general persist in neglecting him.

All of this Mrs. Grant read, and was very evidently irritated. Then she began an explanation, which went into careful details of Dr. Douglas' claims and how they had been paid. "This fresh attack in view of Dr. Douglas' condition is insulting and outrageous," said she. "Why should this man be paid for his services? He has been paid in full, and more. Twelve thousand dollars was the amount allowed him for his services, and that was paid to him in full. He received \$2,000 while the general was at Mount McGregor, and \$4,500 in September or October following the death of General Grant. The general stated that he believed Dr. Douglas should be paid \$5,000. This Mrs. Grant understood to mean for the services rendered. Dr. Douglas, however, differently claimed, stating that it was a legacy. When the money from the general's book was received he was paid the \$5,000, making a total of \$11,500. Mrs. Douglas at no time neglected his services."

Mrs. Grant said she had been informed time and again by Dr. Douglas and his wife that the doctor was penniless. She said it was amusing to have the charge of gross ingratitude flung at the family when even an intimation of this kind had been made by the doctor, she added with emphasis.

Mrs. Grant said that Dr. Douglas was as good as dead in his mind shortly after the general's death, but preferred to see what Dr. Schradt would charge before submitting his bill. He then declared, "The doctor never did the general a particle of good. All he did was to look wise." Mrs. Grant was very anxious that the doctor should be paid in full. She said it was amusing to have the charge of gross ingratitude flung at the family when even an intimation of this kind had been made by the doctor, she added with emphasis.

The superintendent of the Presbyterian hospital, where Dr. Douglas lies ill, this evening told the committee that the doctor only has left arm and leg and not the head. While the doctor is 66 years old and generally very well, the physicians believe he is not long for this world. Mrs. Douglas called upon her husband, although he has been in the hospital since May 3. She is still in Bethlehem.

M. E. CHURCH SOUTH.

Second Day's Session of the Quadrennial Conference.

St. Louis, Mo., May 8.—The Methodist Episcopal conference met again this morning with a full attendance. About an hour of the morning session was given to the consideration of the report of the committee on the book of discipline. The report was read by Secretary J. C. Johns. During the past four years the board had reduced its debt from \$100,000 and over to \$10,000. The report was reported to be in a prosperous condition.

The report of the book committee to the conference on the operations of the publication department was read by the following: "On the 31st day of March, 1890, the house had outstanding of its 4 per cent bonds of \$10,000 and 3 per cent bonds of \$10,000. Against this it had a sinking fund of good bonds to the amount of \$10,745.06. The house had a surplus of \$10,745.06. All the publications of the house are more than self-supporting, with the single exception of the 'Episcopal Review.' This Review has sustained a pecuniary loss of \$12,204 to the house. We believe that notwithstanding this loss it has been a net gain to the house. The committee believe that its publication should be continued."

OFFICERS NAMED.

THE NOMINATIONS FOR OKLAHOMA TERRITORY.

George W. Steele, of Indiana, Governor, and Robert Martin, of Oklahoma, Secretary.

E. B. Greene, of Illinois, A. J. Seay, of Missouri, and J. G. Clark, of Wisconsin, Supreme Court Judges.

Lutry, of Virginia, Marshal, and Horace Speed, Attorney—Another Meeting of the Senate Silver Committee Results in Nothing—The Silver Men Firm—The Tariff Debate—Capital Items.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The president today sent to the senate the following nominations:

GEORGE W. STEELE, of Indiana, to be governor of the territory of Oklahoma.

ROBERT MARTIN, of Oklahoma, secretary of the territory of Oklahoma.

EDWARD B. GREENE, of Illinois, chief justice.

ABRAHAM J. SEAY, of Missouri; JOHN G. CLARK, of Wisconsin, associate justices.

WARREN S. LUTRY, of Virginia, United States marshal.

HORACE SPEED, of Oklahoma, United States attorney.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—On motion of Mr. Morrill the house bill providing for the classification of worsted cloths as woollens was taken up for consideration and debated at great length.

At 2 o'clock the presiding officer (Mr. Ingalls) announced that the worsted bill would now go over and that the silver bill would be taken up this morning.

Various propositions were made on both sides of the chamber as to the order of business, and finally the silver bill was taken up.

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A Long and Arduous Task Contained in the Seven Contested Delegations.

Annual Meeting of the Santa Fe Stockholders Elects the Officers and Directors.

But One Change in the List—No Action Taken to Extend the Terms of Officers to Five Years—Annual Meetings of the Loyal Legion, Homeopaths and Other State Associations—Western Gossip.

NEW POSTMASTERS.

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Indian Territory—Bengal, Choctaw nation, T. S. Morley, vice A. B. Griffin, resigned.

Kansas—Emerald, Franklin county, C. G. Staley, vice M. J. Mackin, resigned; Field, Morris county, A. L. Short, vice C. E. Depew, resigned; Lawrence, Kansas county, T. S. Morley, vice A. B. Griffin, resigned.

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